

CA2ΦN
XC2
-65C51

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

250 COLLEGE STREET TORONTO, M5S 1A1, ONT.

Government
Publications


**Select Committee
On
Conservation
Authorities**



Interim Report
1966

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------|
| Acknowledgements | ii |
| Members of the Select Committee on Conservation Authorities | iii |
| Interim Report | 1 - 4 |



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761114666001>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the visits of the Committee the members and staff of the conservation authorities were most helpful and additional information requested has been provided promptly.

Many excellent briefs have been submitted by the conservation authorities, municipalities, an Ontario Government agency, associations and individuals. The Department of Energy and Resources Management and other departments of the Government of Ontario have supplied information on various phases of the matter.

The Committee wishes to thank these organizations and persons for their co-operation.

The Committee also wishes to thank Mr. James A. Taylor, Q. C., Legal Counsel, Mr. H. G. Hooke, B. Sc. F., Technical Advisor and Mrs. H. G. Rowan, C. A., Secretary, for their assistance and advice.

MEMBERS OF
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| D. Arthur Evans, Chairman..... | Simcoe Centre |
| Maurice Hamilton..... | Renfrew North |
| R. J. Harris..... | Beaches |
| Louis M. Hodgson..... | Scarborough East |
| George A. Kerr..... | Halton |
| Donald C. MacDonald..... | York South |
| W. Darcy McKeough..... | Kent West |
| Robert F. Nixon..... | Brant |
| Neil L. Olde..... | Middlesex South |
| Farquhar R. Oliver..... | Grey South |
| Donald A. Paterson..... | Essex South |
| Gord. W. Pittock..... | Oxford |
| Allan E. Reuter..... | Waterloo South |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (Mrs.) H. G. Rowan, C.A. | Secretary to the Committee |
| James A. Taylor, Q.C. | Legal Counsel to the Committee |
| H. G. Hooke, B.Sc.F. | Technical Advisor to the Committee |

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of Ontario

Parliament Buildings,
Toronto, Ontario,
March 15th, 1966.

Honourable Members:

The Select Committee on Conservation Authorities was appointed by the Third Session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament on Tuesday, June 22nd, 1965, on a motion by the Honourable John P. Robarts, Q. C., Prime Minister of Ontario, seconded by the Honourable J. R. Simonett, Minister of Energy and Resources Management

"Ordered, That a Select Committee of this House be appointed to inquire into and review the provisions of The Conservation Authorities Act and such other Acts of this Legislature relevant to the powers exercised by conservation authorities as the Committee may deem appropriate

And that without limiting the generality of the foregoing to inquire into and review the following matters:

- (a) the constitution and powers of conservation authorities including the number and method of appointment of members;
- (b) the system of financing the work of conservation authorities and the ability of local municipalities to pay for their share of conservation schemes;
- (c) the power of conservation authorities to acquire or expropriate lands and the methods used therefor;
- (d) the administrative practices and methods of conservation authorities in carrying out their responsibilities under The Conservation Authorities Act.

And that the Select Committee have authority to sit during the interval between Sessions and have full power and authority to employ counsel and such other personnel as may be deemed advisable and to call for persons, papers and things and to examine witnesses under oath, and the Assembly doth command and compel attendance before the said Select Committee of such persons and

the production of such papers and things as the Committee may deem necessary for any of its proceedings and deliberations, for which purpose the Honourable the Speaker may issue his warrant or warrants.

And the said Committee to consist of thirteen members to be composed as follows:-

Mr. Evans (Chairman), Messrs. Hamilton, Harris, Hodgson (Scarborough East), Kerr, MacDonald, McKeough, Nixon, Olde, Oliver, Paterson, Pittock and Reuter."

The first meeting was held on July 7th, 1965, and the following appointments made:-

Messrs. James A. Taylor, Q. C., Legal Counsel, H. G. Hooke, B. Sc. F., Technical Advisor, and Mrs. H. G. Rowan, C. A., Secretary.

An advertisement stating that the Select Committee had been appointed, quoting the terms of reference and inviting the presentation of submissions was published in the daily and weekly newspapers of Ontario during the week commencing August 23rd, 1965. (See Appendix B). A letter inviting the presentation of submissions and enclosing a copy of the advertisement was sent to the clerk of each municipality and the chairman of each conservation authority. The response was impressive. Ninety-eight briefs and submissions were received from conservation authorities, municipalities, associations and interested persons. (See Appendix C).

The Committee held 21 meetings, comprising a total of 58 days of which 37 days were spent in visiting Ontario conservation authorities and obtaining information in other areas, and 21 days in sittings in Toronto. During the ten days on which formal hearings were held 22 presentations were made. (See Appendix D).

Since the first steps were taken toward resource management on a river valley basis in the late 1930's significant progress has been made. Many fine examples of conservation works were seen by the Committee, the result of local initiative and government assistance combining to overcome recognized problems. Conservation authorities in Ontario point

with pride to major accomplishments in flood and erosion control, forestry and related aspects of watershed management.

In recent years the public has become more aware of its dependence on natural resources, which in the past have been taken for granted and the result is a growing demand for action to reclaim what has been damaged and to preserve for future generations those resources which are still intact. While such awareness has provided support for the concept of conservation it has also created a greater number of more complex problems; problems which will require money, technical assistance and co-operation to solve.

The basic concept of the conservation authorities movement encourages co-operation among municipalities in the management of their natural resources in a river valley. The Conservation Authorities Act, which was enacted in 1946, is in principle a sound guide for action by the conservation authorities and with modifications can be made to resolve the problem of the wise use of soil, water, woods and wildlife for the people of an area.

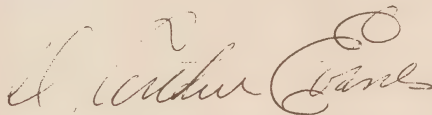
Many and diverse problems relating to conservation authorities have already been brought to the attention of the Committee.

While on the one hand conservation authorities indicate that they are faced with a variety of obstacles which, at present, are limiting their effectiveness, on the other hand, individuals and municipalities have questioned the organization, procedures and practices of some authorities indicating the need for further study in this regard.

All the suggestions, complaints and problems that have been brought to the attention of the Committee must be carefully considered. An opportunity must also be provided for those who have not yet presented their submissions to appear before the Committee.

A final report therefore cannot be made at this time and the Committee respectfully requests that it be re-appointed in order to complete its deliberations and recommendations.

The Committee respectfully submits its Interim Report.



D. Arthur Evans, Chairman

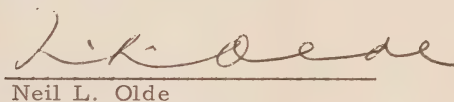



Maurice Hamilton

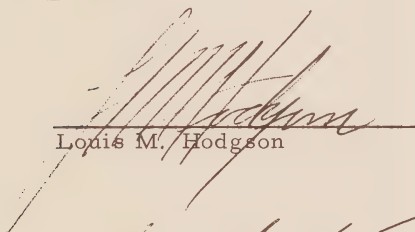
Robert F. Nixon



R. J. Harris



Neil L. Olde



Louis M. Hodgson



Farquhar R. Oliver



George A. Kerr



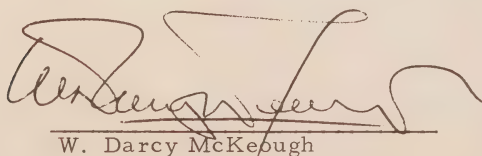
Donald A. Paterson



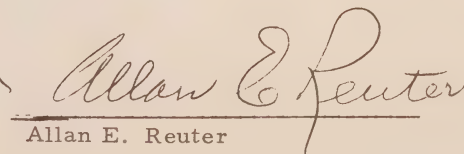
Donald C. MacDonald



Gord. W. Pittock



W. Darcy McKeough



Allan E. Reuter

APPENDIX

CONTENTS

Appendix

- A Conservation Authorities, January, 1966.
- B Advertisement, August, 1965.
- C Written Submissions to January 14th, 1966.
- D Attendances to January 14th, 1966.

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

JANUARY 1966

Established under

The Conservation Authorities Act
R. S. O. 1960, Chapter 62

Ausable River Conservation Authority
Big Creek Region Conservation Authority
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Catfish Creek Conservation Authority
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
Grand Valley Conservation Authority
Halton Region Conservation Authority
Holland Valley Conservation Authority
Junction Creek Conservation Authority
Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Mattagami Valley Conservation Authority
Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Moir River Conservation Authority
Napane Region Conservation Authority
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
North Grey Region Conservation Authority
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
Otter Creek Conservation Authority
Prince Edward Region Conservation Authority
Raisin River Conservation Authority
Sauble Valley Conservation Authority
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority
South Nation River Conservation Authority
Spencer Creek Conservation Authority
Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Whitson Valley Conservation Authority

PLUS:

The Grand River Conservation Commission
established by: The Grand River Conservation
Act, 1938

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

JANUARY 1966 (continued)

Established by
The Grand River Conservation Act, 1938

Grand River Conservation Commission



ONTARIO

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Committee on Conservation Authorities

The Select Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario "... to inquire into and review the provisions of The Conservation Authorities Act and such other Acts of this Legislature relevant to the powers exercised by conservation authorities as the Committee may deem appropriate

"And that without limiting the generality of the foregoing to inquire into and review the following matters:

- (a) the constitution and powers of conservation authorities including the number and method of appointment of members;
- (b) the system of financing the work of conservation authorities and the ability of local municipalities to pay for their share of conservation schemes;
- (c) the power of conservation authorities to acquire or expropriate lands and the methods used therefor;
- (d) the administrative practices and methods of conservation authorities in carrying out their responsibilities under The Conservation Authorities Act."

Conservation authorities, municipalities, associations and individuals are invited to present submissions.

Submissions should be filed with the Secretary by October 15th, 1965. Hearings will commence subsequent to that date.

D. Arthur Evans, M.P.P.
Chairman

Mrs. H. G. Rowan, C.A.,
Secretary,
Box 91, Parliament Bldgs.,
Toronto, Telephone 365-2804

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS
MADE TO
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

to January 14th, 1966

Conservation Authorities

Ausable River Conservation Authority
Big Creek Region, Otter Creek and Catfish Creek
Conservation Authorities
Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Grand Valley Conservation Authority
Halton Region Conservation Authority
Holland Valley Conservation Authority
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Moir River Conservation Authority
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
North Grey Region and Sauble Valley Conservation Authorities
Otonabee Region, Central Lake Ontario, Crowe Valley and
Ganaraska Region Conservation Authorities
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority
South Nation River Conservation Authority
Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Municipalities

Albion, Township of
 Artemesia, Township of
 Aurora, Town of
 Belleville, City of
 Bertie, Township of
 Blenheim, Town of; Camden, Township of; Chatham, City of;
 Chatham, Township of; Harwich, Township of; Howard,
 Township of; Orford, Township of; Raleigh, Township of;
 Ridgetown, Town of; Romney, Township of; Thamesville,
 Village of; Tilbury, Town of; Tilbury East, Township of;
 Tilbury West, Township of; and Zone, Township of
 Bosanquet, Township of
 Chatham, City of
 Crystal Beach, Village of
 Dundas, Town of
 Dunwich, Township of
 Exeter, Town of
 Flamborough West, Township of
 Garafraxa West, Township of
 Hastings, County of
 Innisfil, Township of
 Kingston, City of
 Lavant, Township of
 London, Township of
 Longlac, Township of
 Luther West, Township of
 Matilda, Township of
 Metropolitan Toronto Council,
 the Executive Committee of
 Norwich South, Township of
 Oakville, Town of
 Palmerston, Town of
 Port Hope, Town of
 Sault Ste. Marie, City of
 Scarborough, Township of
 Swansea, Village of
 Thorold, Township of
 Toronto Gore, Township of
 Waterloo, Township of
 Whitby, Township of
 Woolwich, Township of

Municipalities (continued)

York, County of, Planning Office
York East, Township of
York North, Township of

Ontario Government Agencies

Ontario Water Resources Commission

Organizations and Individuals

Association of Ontario Land Surveyors
Beckett, Leo G.
Black River Control Committee
Campbell, A. M., Reeve of the Township of Scarborough
Card, Julia
Central Middlesex Planning Board
Committee of Conservation Authority Chairmen
Dawson, J. C.
Farina, John
Federation of Ontario Naturalists
Fines, Estate of Donald B.
Geiger, Mrs. D. W. and Eisenhauer, Mrs. H. R.
Goodman & Goodman, Barristers & Solicitors
Hall, F. C.
Hancock, F. P.
Hogg, Dr. A. D.
International Union, UAW, Canadian Region
Jane and Eglinton Property Owners
Jones, C. A.
Junkin, Marvin
Long, Norman W.
Maple Creek Farms
McIntosh, T. Allen
National Research Council, Canadian Committee on the
International Biological Programme
Newman, J. C.
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Ontario Federation of Labour
Ontario Municipal Association

Organizations and Individuals (continued)

Oxford County Federation of Agriculture
Paulynne Park
Peart, Fred
Pepper, Foster
Provincial Council of Women of Ontario, The
Prue, Sydney
Sarnia Lambton Regional Tourist Council
Sauriol, Charles
Sterne, Eliza Ann
Trimbee, James W., Sr.
Whitaker, W. D.
Wishart, George

ATTENDANCES
UPON THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

to January 14th, 1966

Conservation Authorities

Ausable River Conservation Authority
Big Creek Region, Otter Creek and Catfish Creek
Conservation Authorities
Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Municipalities

Albion, Township of
Bosanquet, Township of
Exeter, Town of
Norwich South, Township of
Scarborough, Township of
Toronto Gore, Township of
York East, Township of
York North, Township of

Organizations and Individuals

Beckett, Leo G.
Campbell, A. M., Reeve of the Township of Scarborough
Committee of Conservation Authority Chairmen
Hogg, Dr. A. D.
Jones, C. A.
Long, Norman W.
Maple Creek Farms
Paulyne Park
Sarnia Lambton Regional Tourist Council
Sterne, Eliza Ann
Trimbee, James W., Sr.

